



*Hundreds of Police Chiefs, Sheriffs,  
Prosecutors, other Law Enforcement  
Leaders, and Violence Survivors  
Preventing Crime and Violence*

TO: Chairman Shirkey and Members of the House Michigan Competitive Committee

FROM: K.P. Pelleran, State Director *KP*

DATE: May 21, 2013

SUBJECT: Extending Medicaid coverage to the working poor a crime prevention tool.

Please find attached a letter from 52 law enforcement leaders of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids sent to each state legislator on April 16 asking that Michigan extend Medicaid to those working poor from 100 to 133 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Besides health care, this would allow them and their children to have access to mental and behavioral health services. With adequate treatment, we could reduce the number of mentally ill who are now filling our jails.

Please also find attached a copy of Fight Crime's recent report, "Cut Violence, Cut Prison Costs." Four of our members (Prosecutor Brian Mackie, Sheriff Paul Bailey, Prosecutor Stuart Dunnings, and Sheriff Dean Roesler) released the report at a press conference at the State Capitol on April 30. The report focuses on Medicaid and the crime prevention benefits of extending it to the working poor and to their children. If you have not read the report I urge you to do so. **An electronic link to the report is at:** <http://www.fightcrime.org/wp-content/uploads/FCIK-MI-Medicaid-Report.pdf>

Again, the extension of benefits is recommended to the working poor. These are folks trying to lift themselves out of poverty, many of whom have only a minimum-wage job. At 133 percent of FPL, a 2-person family (mother and child in many cases) makes up to \$20,628 annually. Offering the helping hand to the working poor would also minimize the numbers of those who come before the courts for child abuse or neglect.

Not only is extending Medicaid no cost to the state at present, but, it is more humane to offer the working poor access to medical care. In the long run, it also saves us a great deal of taxpayer money that we now spend on corrections for juveniles and adults.



Letter personalized to House & Senate members - Sent April 16, 2013.



# FIGHT CRIME: Invest in Kids Michigan

April 16, 2013

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Kathy "K.P." Pelleran, State Director  
a. Abatech, Deputy Director

Honorable John Moolenaar  
Michigan Senate  
State Capitol  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Senator Moolenaar:

As you deliberate the Department of Community Health Budget, we urge you to support using federal funds to increase the health coverage of Michigan's low-income, uninsured citizens through Medicaid. Extending Medicaid to 133 percent of Federal Poverty Level can reduce future health, social welfare, and corrections expenditures resulting from child abuse and neglect, fetal alcohol exposure, and troubled children and youth.

The more than 500 law enforcement leaders who are members of FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS Michigan, together with more than 5,000 police chiefs, sheriffs, and prosecutors nationwide, know from the front lines against crime—and from the research—that high-quality investments in at-risk kids are among the most powerful weapons we have against crime. We know that increased access among parents and children to proven mental health and behavioral health treatments, including substance abuse treatment, will cut future crime and violence.

## Increasing Parent Coverage Also Increases Chances of Their Children's Coverage

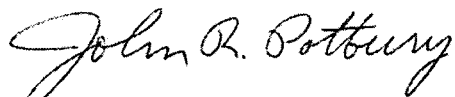
Research reveals that parents without insurance are three times more likely to have uninsured children. In Michigan, almost 250,000 poor women will become eligible for insurance under Medicaid extension, and there are more than 25,000 Michigan children not yet enrolled who are more likely to get coverage when their parents become enrolled. When parents and children gain access to mental and behavioral treatment programs, including treatment for substance abuse, future criminality and associated societal costs – both human and economic – can be averted.

## Parent Coverage Can Help Reduce Child Abuse and Neglect and Later Crime

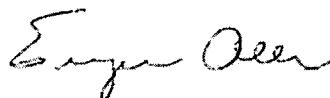
Parents enrolled in Medicaid can receive mental and behavioral health treatment, including treatment for substance abuse disorders. This can help to reduce child abuse or neglect and related fatalities. One-third to two-thirds of child abuse or neglect cases involve a parent with a substance abuse problem. Parental substance abuse is associated with the most severe child maltreatment outcomes, including placement in foster care and fatalities. In many cases, parental substance abuse is associated with mental illness and mothers' depression has also been linked to child abuse and neglect. There were more than 33,000 confirmed cases of child abuse or neglect in Michigan in 2011, and 75 children died as a result. Among survivors of child abuse and neglect, the scars can have lasting effects; in one research study, being abused or neglected almost doubled the odds that a child would commit a crime

POLICE CHIEFS, SHERIFFS, PROSECUTORS, OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS, AND VIOLENCE SURVIVORS PREVENTING CRIME AND VIOLENCE

BOJI TOWER, SUITE 1220 ★ 124 W. ALLEGAN ST. ★ LANSING, MI 48933 ★ PHONE 517.371.3565 ★ FAX 517.371.3567 ★ WWW.FIGHTCRIME.ORG/MI



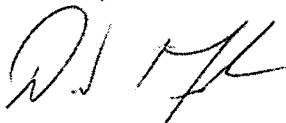
John R. Potbury, Special Asst. Prosecutor  
Genesee County



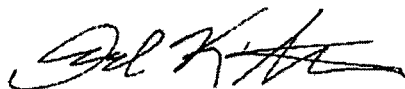
Eugene Alli, Deputy  
St. Joseph Cty. Sheriff's Dept. - Homeland  
Security



Frank Williams Jr., Chief of Police  
Cassopolis Police Dept.



David Faber, Chief of Police  
Utica Police Dept.



Ford K. Stone, Prosecutor  
Manistee County



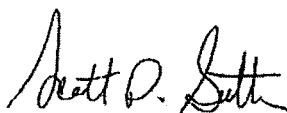
Eric Hawkins, Chief of Police  
Southfield Police Dept.



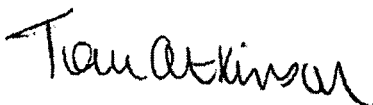
Keith J. Kushion, Prosecutor  
Gratiot County



Fred Posavetz, Chief of Police  
Clinton Twp. Police Dept.



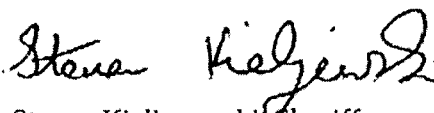
Scott D. Sutter, Chief of Police  
Linden Police Dept.



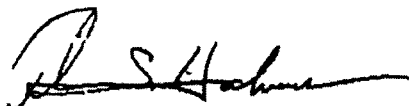
Tom Atkinson, Director of Public Safety  
Dowagiac Police Dept.



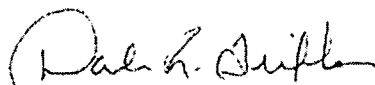
Melissa Powell, Prosecutor  
Iron County



Steven Kieliszewski, Sheriff  
Alpena County



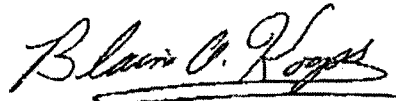
Dennis S. Halverson, Safe School Coordinator  
Charlevoix-Emmet ISD



Dale R. Gribler, Sheriff  
Van Buren County



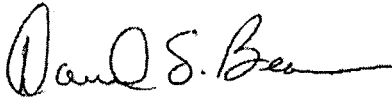
Sam L. Davis, Major, Jail Administrator  
Ingham Cty. Sheriff's Office



Blaine A. Koops, Sheriff  
Allegan County




Michael Reese, Chief of Police  
Sterling Hts. Police Dept.



Daniel S. Bean, Sheriff  
Antrim County



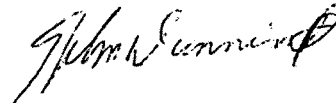
Don Ginstert, Chief of Police  
Riverview Police Dept.

  
Paul R. Spaniola, Prosecutor  
Mason County

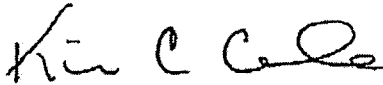
Timothy J. Rutkowski, Prosecutor  
Huron County



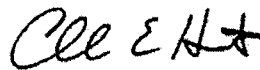
Richard Steiger, Prosecutor  
Presque Isle County



Stuart J. Dunning, Prosecutor  
Ingham County



Kim C. Cole, Sheriff  
Mason County



Chuck Heit, Undersheriff  
Berrien County



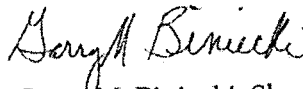
Jody Hartley, Undersheriff  
Mason County



Pete Matonich, Sheriff  
Gogebic County



Todd A. Taylor Sr., Chief of Police  
Chikaming Twp. Police Dept.



Garry M. Biniecki, Sheriff  
Sanilac County

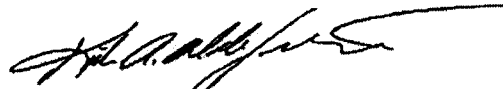


Michel C. Madden, Chief of Police  
St. Johns Police Dept.

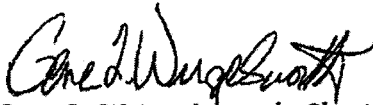
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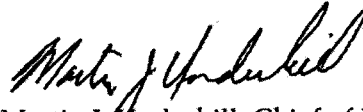
Dan Branson, Chief of Police  
Harbor Springs Police Dept.



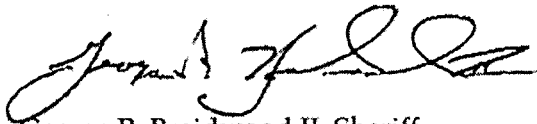
Kirk A. Wakefield, Sheriff  
Crawford County



Gene L. Wriggelsworth, Sheriff  
Ingham County



Martin J. Underhill, Chief of Police  
Grand Ledge Police Dept.



George R. Braidwood II, Sheriff  
Shiawassee County



Leland Teschendorf, Sheriff  
Tuscola County